

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Honours Degree programmes in Film Studies**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document for the other subject. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2014**.

The aims of the Honours Degree programmes in Film Studies are to:

- foster intellectual enquiry into the functions and operations of film, television, video and digital media arts, meeting the general requirements of the subject benchmarking statement in the development of knowledge, understanding, and discipline-specific key skills;
- provide a flexible and progressive structure in which students are able to gain knowledge and understanding of film and television studies;
- offer courses in which teaching is informed by research activity and professional expertise;
- produce graduates who can confidently apply conceptual skills, whether in the communication industries or in the wider world of work or further learning, to contribute to the national and international community.

The programme is delivered full-time in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). It is characterised by its progressive structure, which allows for increasing specialisation through the programme. A foundational first year provides the basis for increased specialisation in subsequent years, where students are able to develop and pursue their individual intellectual interests.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning in the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of film and television drama, the documentary mode, processes of media signification and their relationship to subjectivity, and theories of contemporary media production and the temporal imagination. The programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- understanding and application of theories of meaning and communication in audio-visual media;
- knowledge of selected cinema, television and media art traditions in Europe and North America;
- understanding of the role and significance of audio-visual media in contemporary society;

- understanding forms of communication, media and culture as they have developed historically, with reference to social, cultural and technological change;
- develop substantive and detailed knowledge and understanding in selected areas of the field.
- (English-Film Studies Joint Honours only:) understanding of the historical and aesthetic relationship between literary and moving image media and texts.

Skills and other attributes

- competence in the interpretation of audio-visual texts;
- competence in independent thinking informed by appropriate critical theories of media and culture (for example, gender studies, psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies and postmodernism);
- ability to make informed contributions to debates about communication and public life;
- ability to engage critically with major thinkers, debates and intellectual paradigms within the field and put them to productive use;
- ability to examine media forms critically with appropriate reference to social and cultural contexts and the diversity of contemporary society;
- ability to consider and evaluate own work in a reflective manner, with reference to academic and/or professional issues, debates and conventions;
- ability to carry out analysis, problem-solving, and decision-making, and to abstract and synthesise information;*
- the ability to develop a reasoned argument and to articulate these through written and oral communication;*
- learn and study, take responsibility for own learning, and develop habits of reflection on that learning;*
- information technology (including word processing, email and WWW) and development of specific proficiencies in utilising selected media technologies;*
- information handling and retrieval: identifying, retrieving, synthesising and presenting information, investigating a wide range of sources;*
- interpersonal skills including listening, leadership, responding to others appropriately and contributing to a team;*
- in addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthen our graduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include: personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; creativity; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability.

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, small-group tutorials, guided independent research, and guided independent study. Assessment is by formal examinations, coursework essays and other exercises, oral presentations and through the independent dissertation or research project. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that the list of available optional courses offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department](#).

Single Honours Degree programmes

Stage one:

Students must take:

MA1051 Film and Television History (1 unit)

MA1052 Introduction to Critical Theory and Textual Analysis (1 unit)
MA1054 Introduction to Film Narrative (½ unit)
MA1154 Screen Narrative: Theory and Practice (½ unit)
ML1101 International Film (½ unit)
ML1102 The Birth of Film (½ unit)

Stage two:

Students choose five options from courses offered in the Department of Media Arts and three options from the film and television courses offered in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Stage three:

Students must choose either
MA3061 Dissertation (1 unit)
OR
MA3062 Media Research Project (1 unit)

Plus choose options totalling three full units. These must include two Media Arts courses to the value of 2 full units and 1 full course unit may be taken from the range of film and television courses offered in the School of Modern Languages, subject to timetabling, availability, and course prerequisites, if any (e.g., language competences).

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Film Studies as a major component:

Stage one:

Students must take:
MA1051 Film and Television History (1 unit)
MA1052 Introduction to Critical Theory and Textual Analysis (1 unit)
MA1054 Introduction to Film Narrative (½ unit)
ML1101 International Film (½ unit)
plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage two:

Students must choose five options from the film and television courses offered in the Department of Media Arts and one option from the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, plus specified courses in the other subject.

Stage three:

Students must take:
MA3061 Dissertation (1 unit)
plus choose two Media Arts options,
plus specified courses in the other subject.

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Joint Honours Degree programme: English and Film Studies

Stage one:

Students must take:

MA1051 Film and Television History (1 unit)
MA1052 Introduction to Critical Theory and Textual Analysis (1 unit)

and specified courses in English to the value of 2 units.

Stage two:

Students choose four options from theory courses offered in the Department of Media Arts

and specified subjects in the other department.

Stage three:

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Students must take **either:**

Stage three (a):

MA3061 Dissertation (1 unit)

plus one course from the list of Stage Three theory options offered in the Department of Media Arts (1 unit)

and specified subjects in the other department.

or:

Stage three (b):

Two courses from the list of Stage Three theory options offered in the Department of Media Arts (2 unit)

and a Dissertation supervised in the Department of English (1 unit)

and courses to the value of 1 full unit from the list of Stage Three courses offered by the Department of English.

Students may only write one dissertation.

Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisors: All students are allocated a Personal Advisor who meets with them regularly through the programme. The Advisor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- Joint Honours students in English and Film Studies will have a Personal Adviser in each department.
- The Programme Director provides a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All staff available and accessible through dedicated office hours system.
- Emphasis on small group teaching by seminar, workshop and tutorial.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Dedicated Departmental videotape library to support teaching and learning.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre.
- Dedicated Departmental editing and digital production facilities, camera equipment, television studio, sound studio (for first year Production Workshop).
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Educational Support Office for students with special needs.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

As well as providing a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and careers in Media Arts, the degree programme will provide students with skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment positions. Research opportunities exist within the department for exceptional undergraduates and a significant number choose to pursue further studies to Masters and PhD level at Royal Holloway or other universities. For further details please refer to the [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research. The Department/School of Media Arts was ranked joint 6th in the top 10 universities in the country in terms of proportion of 3* and 4* research. Staff are frequently called upon to serve on national bodies including the RAE, HEFCE, AHRB, Skillset, UK Film Council and BFI advisory committees etc.

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List of programmes

Both programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Film Studies are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statement in Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Single Honours Degree programmes in Film Studies

BA Film Studies (W610)

Joint Honours Degree Programmes with Film Studies and another subject as equal components

BA English and Film Studies (QW36)

Combined Honours Degree programmes with Film Studies as a major component

BA Film Studies with Philosophy (W6V5)

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